

2015 Summer of Safety Fact Sheet



Seat belt use

- Michigan's 2014 seat belt use rate was 93 percent, down from a record high of 98 percent in 2009. (*Wayne State Transportation Research Group, WSTRG*)
- Seat belts reduce the risk of death by 45 percent and serious injury by 50 percent for drivers and front-seat passengers. (*National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, NHTSA*)
- During Michigan's Summer of Safety, federal traffic safety funds will support extra traffic enforcement throughout the state. Officers will conduct seat belt enforcement zones as well as stepped up drunk driving enforcement. More than 10,000 people died nationwide during 2013 in alcohol-impaired driving crashes—one every 52 minutes. (*NHTSA*)
- Seat belt use nationwide was 87 percent in 2013. (*NHTSA*)
- In 2014, there were 876 people killed and 71,378 persons injured in Michigan traffic crashes. Of those fatalities, 188 were not wearing their seat belts. (*Michigan State Police, Criminal Justice Information Center*)

Child passenger safety

- Michigan law requires drivers, front seat passengers, and passengers 15 and younger in any seating position to be buckled up. Children must be in a car seat or booster seat until they are 8 years old or 4'9" tall, and children under 4 years old must be in the back seat.
- Babies and toddlers should ride in a rear-facing car seat until age 2. Studies have found that children younger than 2 are 75 percent less likely to die or be severely injured in a crash if they are rear-facing.

Motorcycle safety

- Motorcycle fatalities represent 11 percent of all traffic fatalities each year, yet motorcycles represent only 3 percent of all registered vehicles in the United States. (*NHTSA*)
- Approximately 50 percent of motorcycle-vehicle collisions occur at intersections. (*NHTSA*)
- In Michigan, nearly half the riders killed in crashes lack a cycle endorsement on their license. Increased visibility, rider training, and the proper license endorsement are keys to reducing motorcyclist deaths and injuries.
- Only 5 percent of Michigan motorcyclists wear any kind of high-visibility clothing or gear. (*WSTRG*)

Bicycle safety

- Of those killed while riding bicycles, 88 percent are male. (*NHTSA*)
- Nearly a quarter of bicyclists (24 percent) who die in crashes have a blood alcohol content of .08 or higher. (*NHTSA*)